Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Annual Report

November 2001

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Legislative Committees Office
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

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102-02199/

Hon. Murray Scott
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am pleased to submit the 2000 / 2001 Report of the Committee for the Second Session of the Fifty-Eighth General Assembly.

Respectively submitted,

William Langille, MLA
(Colchester North)
Chairman
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2001

Printed on paper that contains recycled fibre

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Foreword

Although there is no written mandate of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, the report was written with the understanding that the committee be established for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Legion.

The report is written under individualized headings outlining the concerns and issues brought forth from each group /organization.

Royal Canadian Legion

Mr. Clarence Dawe - Provincial President
Mr. Fred Mombourquette - 1st Vice President
Mr. Vic Barnes - 2nd Vice President
Mr. John Landsburg - Past President

Background

On November 23, 2000, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs had met with members of the Royal Canadian Legion to discuss the following issues and concerns of this organization.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion has provided many years of volunteer work, but do wonder who would carry on with these worthwhile projects if their membership was to decline to the point that not enough volunteers were available or the necessary funds required for these projects could not be raised.

Services Provided to Seniors and Youth

Nova Scotia Command of the Royal Canadian Legion has appointed a Veterans Services and Seniors Committee to work with the 119 Legion branches in its Command and its membership of 35,000. The chairman of this committee also serves on the Nova Scotia Group of Nine Organization along with the Senior Citizens/ Secretariat. As over 50 per cent of their membership are seniors, the Legion branches are very active in supplying programs and projects for seniors in various communities.

The Dominion Command Veterans Services and Seniors Committee mandate, of which Nova Scotia Command is a member, is charged with looking out for the interests of seniors and those entitled to programs and benefits of Veterans Affairs Canada. It also maintains liaison with other national or international organizations involved in the promotion of CARE and other useful programs for seniors.

In addition, Nova Scotia Command has a full-time Command Service Officer who assists branch services officers as well as directly offering services to veterans still serving, service personnel, former service and RCMP personnel and their dependants. The main emphasis is on services related to appeals and disability pensions. The Command Service Officer also provides a full spectrum of services to veterans and their dependants on a province-wide basis.

Nova Scotia Command also participated in a Senior Citizens Fall Consultation that dealt with safety and security for seniors; and in a workshop at Mount Saint Vincent University to address the issues related to ageing drivers. The Command also entered into a partnership with Community Links and with the Director for Long Term Care at Camp Hill Hospital. The objective of which is to promote the independence and quality of life of veterans and seniors by reducing the number and severity of falls. If approved, funds for this four year fall prevention initiative will be made available by Health Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada for community-based projects in the Atlantic Region.

Sponsorship Program

Two of the programs which the Command has been involved with over the last 40 years were the Leadership Training Camp which is held for ten days in the summer at a major university in Nova Scotia. The program is designed to encourage youths to become leaders in their communities. Eighty-four students are enrolled each year to take part in this camp as well as ten professional educators who are hired to perform the instruction.

The purpose of this camp is to provide opportunities through teaching, planning and conducting programs whereby personal leadership potential may be further developed, to assist in developing some of the skills which will help the youth fulfil various leadership roles in the school or community.

Elements of art, drama, sports, music and dance are used to allow the individuals to develop public speaking and communication skills, to learn motivation skills and to be able to organize groups to conduct specific tasks or pursue a course of action for the benefit of the group. The alternate goal of this camp is that students will make a potential difference in any team or organization that they are involved in. It is unique for there is no other camp in Canada that strives to create potential leaders within its communities. The Leadership Training Camp costs the Nova Scotia Command of the Royal Canadian Legion approximately $51,000 per year to operate.

Secondly, the Commands largest contribution to youths is assistance to the track and field of Nova Scotia. The provincial competition, paid for through funds from the Dominion Command and the Nova Scotia Command for Nova Scotia Athletes, provides a selection potential athletes to send to the national competition. This year, 44 athletes, six coaches and chaperones went to Calgary where they competed against athletes from across Canada.

Depending on the location of the competitions these Meets can becomes quite expensive. This year the cost of the provincial competition which was held in Sackville, NS was approximately $3,000 and the national competition cost an additional $42,000 with the inclusion of airfares, meals, accommodations and awards. These costs are escalating each year and funds are very limited as well as access to new money. As Legion members continue to decline and membership continues to drop, the funds available to youth will become less each year which may cause the Legion to re-examine priorities and determine which programs to participate in and which ones to drop.

The Command also maintains their Call to Remembrance Program which costs approximately $8,000, contribute money to Cadet Squadrons which costs an additional $3,000 and they also contribute approximately $5,000 to Seniors' programs.

Funding

From the 119 branches combined the total monies donated to communities and provincial groups was approximately $1.3 million. This figure does not take into consideration the donation of halls or the man hours. It also does not take into account the money raised for veterans through the branch poppy funds.

Monies are raised in the branches by the members of the branch and the ladies' auxiliary, break-open tickets, flea markets, catering, VLT machines, so on and so forth. The percentage that the Legions had to take last year on the VLT machines has not helped the branches in their endeavours.

The Legions use to receive a grant from the provincial government of $7,000, however over the years it was reduced to $700 and for the last several years they have received no money.

Health Care

The most pressing concern of Canadians is health care. In this regard, the Command congratulates the Nova Scotia Government for the introduction of the single-entry-access program which will make access to health services by older Nova Scotians significantly easier. In addition to this initiative, there are a number of programs which, if implemented appropriately, could improve the health and well-being of ageing persons, while at the same time reducing the cost to government. These programs include, but are not limited to:

1. Wellness Programs. Regular monitoring of blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, weight and nutrition can alert health care practitioners to possible problems. It is a program which can be offered in a church basement or in a lounge in a senior's complex, by nurses who could also offer educational programs and provide participants with information about other community services.

2. Fall Reduction Programs. There are a number of programs which address this concern, including specially designed exercise programs and environmental adaptations to the home. These programs are well-documented in their effectiveness in preventing falls, as well as reducing or delaying the need for institutionalization.

3. Provision of Equipment for Home Care Clients. The majority of care provided to ageing Nova Scotians is, in fact, provided by family members. One of the problems that informal caregivers encounter is the cost of renting the required equipment, including lifts and electric beds. This is not the type of equipment that is generally available through an equipment loan program, but is vital to provide adequate care to persons with certain conditions, particularly those at the end of their life.

4. Respite Care. A program of limited respite care is provided through Home Care Nova Scotia, however it is often not adequate for those who are providing care to a loved one 24 hours a day. The in-home support funding disappeared when the Department of Community Services merged its programs to seniors with the Department of Health. This was a valuable program of relief to families supporting low-income seniors. It is also disappointing to note that adult day programs are still not supported in any way by the province. These programs are known to meet the needs of both care providers and care recipients and are more cost-effective than the provisions of in-home respite.

5. Palliative Care Programs. The provision of effective, coordinated palliative care is a compassionate and cost-effective way of supporting people to die. While this is being looked at in Nova Scotia, particularly in the northern region it must become a reality throughout the province. Communities are attempting to respond to the needs of palliative care patients and their caregivers by developing palliative care to volunteer programs and hospices, but they are not always able to access support for these initiatives from the government.

6. Transportation. A number of transportation programs to meet the needs of seniors have been developed by communities throughout Nova Scotia, however these programs get little or no funding from the provincial government and they are constantly having to fund raise in order to survive. Many transportation programs serving seniors piggyback on HRDC programs to promote employment or employability. While this arrangement works, it is generally recognized that seniors will be the first group dropped in a funding crunch.

7. Volunteer Services. A significant amount of the planning for and provision of health care in this province is provided by volunteers. Throughout the province volunteers raise millions of dollars, which is used to sustain the health care system. Very little is done in the Province of Nova Scotia to recognize the contribution made by volunteers in the provision of health care. There are no coordinated, sustained grants available to volunteer programs; there is no minister responsible for volunteers and there is no awareness of any provincial initiatives to recognize the International Year of the Volunteer.

Matters of Discussion

There were a number of matters discussed throughout the meeting. Outlined below are the topics that were dealt with during the meeting.

VLT's.
The Legions suggested that they should receive a fair percentage of the profits for contributions to communities, programs and services, youths and seniors.

The Gaming Commission estimates that the Legions receive 20 per cent of the take, but out of that 20 percent the Legions must pay employees, electricity, so on and so forth plus contribute to their various programs and services. In actuality the Legions receive about 12 per cent from the VLT machines.

Hospices.
The Legion now has a committee in line in the Annapolis Valley that has already donated $.25 million to the hospice. What they are now asking is for the government to participate in it. The government could realize the money they can save on a hospice per person, which is about $187 a day, versus long-term care in a hospital at over $1,200 a day.

In response to several of these discussion matters the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs made several motions to write on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion to the Ministers of Finance, Health and Minister responsible for the Senior Citizens Secretariat supporting the Legions in their endeavours.

Witness Suggestions

The following suggestions were put forward by the presenters. As stated, "what is needed in Nova Scotia is immediate planning for services for ageing persons which incorporate the following":

> Consistent collaboration with community groups, working for, and/or with seniors. Inviting these groups to the table every time a new issue is raised or a new program is being considered.
>
> A consistency in services and programs for seniors throughout the province. Older people need to know that regardless of where they reside in this province, there are certain basic services which will be available to them.
>
> A government program of sustained funding for volunteer initiatives which addresses the health and well-being of the elderly. This would allow communities to plan for the development of volunteer transportation, palliative care, meal programs and other valuable services, without the burden of constant fund raising.
>
> Collaboration amongst government departments and levels of government in the recognition that the health and well-being of older people is not the exclusive responsibility of one department nor one level of government.
>
> Creative thinking. There is no reason to deliver services the way they have always been delivered.

A focus on health promotion and illness prevention. It needs significantly more support in terms of funding, programs and personnel if it is to significantly affect the lives of ageing Nova Scotians.

Walter Callow Wheelchair Busses

Mr. William F. MacDonald - President of the Board
Mr. John Morse - Executive Director
Mr. Kevin Page - Board Member
Mr. Harold Shea - Board Member

Background

The Walter Callow Wheelchair Bus organization, incorporated in 1947, consists of a volunteer board of about 14 members. Included on the board is an executive director, full-time clerk typist, and full and part-time drivers.

The objective of the organization is to make certain that as a non-profit organization, they dedicate their time to providing group recreational transportation for persons with disabilities. It is not the same as Access-A-Bus but as a one-on-one, as need be basis. People go out with their peers to different functions, so on and so forth as a group.

Funding

In April 1999 the Walter Callow Wheelchair Bus organization was getting ready to launch their campaign for a new bus at a cost of $200,000. Subsequently, they have taken $475,000 of their own funds and set it aside towards the purchase, leaving a total of $125,000 to be raised. To date they have raised $50,000.

The Callow Wheelchair Bus organization has an operating budget that varies, depending upon the cost of servicing the buses. For an average year the cost of maintaining the vehicles may be about $5,000, however in 1999 they spent $16,000 on maintenance.

In 1997 the board decided that they were going to have to introduce a user-pay system for certain clients, i.e. nursing homes and people who are not connected to Camp Hill, etc. The idea was that if the buses went beyond a radius of 40 miles a flat fee of $120 plus mileage would be charged.

Although the Walter Callow Wheelchair Bus organization does receive reasonable financial support from their major clients, in particular the major nursing homes that use their service fairly frequently, they have not implemented a charge to those organizations that are within that 40 mile radius. However the organization does feel that they could solicit these clients to help the organization in fund raising activities.

The United Way has been supporting the organization over the years, however beginning in 1994 the monies allotted to them was gradually reduced. In 1995 the organization received $22,000, and in this past year there was no funding. They no longer receive funds through the United Way.

The Legions have been extremely helpful through the poppy funds and different fund raising ventures, the Legions have given the Walter Callow Wheelchair Bus organization about $30,000. The organization also receives about $31,000 a year from DVA.

HRM has been contributing for a number of years as well, a total of about $5,000, but in the last several years this has been cut off as well. As well funding from a youth foundation was cut due to the organization's inability to service areas outside of HRM.

Clientele

There is no question that the number of veterans that the organization serves is reducing, however, with the ageing population, there are more and more people going into nursing homes. That means their service is shifting more toward servicing that specific clientele. Although the number of World War II veterans and Korea War veterans are diminishing, there seems to be a pool of other service personnel, i.e. Vietnam Veterans, Peace Keepers, so on and so forth.

Matters of Discussion

There were a number of matters discussed throughout the meeting. Outlined below are some of the topics that were dealt with during the meeting.

Funding for a new bus.
Necessary funding for the remainder of monies needed to replace the ageing and unreliable bus the organization is presently using.

Specific areas of service.
At one time the Walter Callow Wheelchair Busses serviced other parts of the province and parts of New Brunswick, however because of funding constraints they now concentrate in the HRM area.

In response to the request for funding, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has written letters of support, in conjunction with Walter Callow Wheelchair Busses, corroborating the organizations endeavour in seeking funding for a new bus.

Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association

Mrs. Susan Riordon - Atlantic Director

Background

Nova Scotia, for many years, has been considered a have-not province. The province has a lot of Persian Gulf veterans that want to come home and home is Nova Scotia. However the province has to incorporate these veterans in its MSI system because they arrive here with misdiagnosis from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Nova Scotia corrects these errors but also have doctors who file Persian Gulf veterans as "patients", not only verbally but on paper. The province is bringing these people back home where they belong, where they feel safe, but cannot take care of them medically. There are no resources.

There are veterans in this province that for three years Veterans Affairs Halifax paid monies to send them to military doctors outside the province.

Veterans Affairs Canada

The number of veterans who were infected with weapons-grade depleted uranium, as projected through the Uranium Medical Project, are 15 positive (10 positive in Nova Scotia alone). The Uranium Medical Project are waiting on 70 results, of which, over half are people from Nova Scotia.

Veterans Affairs have awarded zero amount pension which means no money, which means we are further disgracing these veterans by putting them within the Nova Scotia welfare system. There are a number of veterans in Nova Scotia not covered by Veterans Affairs pensions or assistance and living off the province and its programs.

Most veterans are receiving 0 to 5 per cent pension, or $91.06 a month. Any pension under 48 per cent means no survivor benefits, and the onus is upon the veteran to prove it. We, as a province, are supporting these veterans by paying welfare, social assistance, Meals on Wheels, and everything that Veterans Affairs should be doing.

Veterans Affairs is implementing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and War-Related Stress for our Persian Gulf Veterans. This does not do anything for our veterans, especially Nova Scotia Veterans. We cannot even get them into the chronic pain clinic if they live too far outside of Halifax-Dartmouth area.

Veterans Affairs hid their medical rate scale. Chapter 21, which post-traumatic stress disorder comes under is psychiatric disorders — somatization disorder falls under this as well. The Canadian Veterans Peace Keeping Association used this document to provide a lot of pensions to veterans and to get a lot of people off welfare, and to provide more pension monies than the $91.06 a month.

What was not considered and will not be considered is the many wives, husbands and children that are accepted as collateral damage.

This is not only about the care of veterans or lack of care. This is the total disregard of their partners. What about the wives, dependent husbands, who have no support groups, who have no 1-800 number to call for suicide help, and as caregivers work 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. What about the children who now have post-traumatic stress disorder, which at that young of an age can turn into schizophrenia in mid to late 20's. The Nova Scotia medical system will foot the bill.

This is a federal problem not a provincial problem. As a province, we can support them and we can stand up and ask why is Canada not a leader, why is it a follower.

U. S. Study Paper

The Atlantic Director of CPVA suggested that the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs look into the possibility of DU being sexually transmittable through seminal fluid.

The Director put forward a U. S. study paper that suggested that cancer has a long latency period and that we may only now be beginning to see the problems. Five out of 22 veterans in this study had detectable levels of weapons-grade depleted uranium in their semen. That is 22.7 per cent out of less than 50 per cent. The paper also talks about having weapons-grade depleted uranium in the body.

Almost 15,000 of these people that actually go to Veterans Affairs doctors have reported tumours: 11,000 had benign tumours which may lead to malignancy later; 3,000 have malignant tumours. Five out of 22 had detectable levels of DU in their semen, an obvious genotoxic hazard with serious implications. The report also says that there is no threshold level of radiation below which an exposed person is safe from radiation damage, no matter what the source.

At this request the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs passed a motion to write to the Department of Health outlining this concern and asking that this report be investigated for authenticity.

In addition, the Standing Committee also passed motions to write to several other departments concerning Social Assistance payments to Persian Gulf Veterans; and costs incurred by the province in support of Persian Gulf Veterans.

Matters of discussion

There were a number of matters discussed throughout the meeting. Outlined below are the topics that were dealt with during the meeting.

Federal government responsibility.
The Federal government is not accepting any responsibility for these individuals. Nova Scotia veterans from the Persian Gulf Conflict and Kosovo are awaiting their results. Suggestions put forth by the Atlantic Director on what the Provincial government can do is to persuade the federal government to:

- Have Veterans Affairs change their system to include veterans helping veterans;
- Protect the people in Veterans Affairs;
- Set up a place for dependents to get help;
- Set up special programs for veterans, i.e. suicide prevention, help lines, etc. The systems that are now set up are not designed for this type of reality. They have no concept of military life or of gulf illness.

Depleted Uranium Testing
Canadians are being tested on a charity level because they are not getting the proper testing through the Canadian Armed Forces or Veterans Affairs. Urine tests will only tell what has gone through the body's system. A bone sample is needed to obtain true testing. The cost for tests is now the equivalent of $300 U.S. and veterans are using their own monies for their own testing. Priority testing is done on the veteran that served. There is no money to test a partner or spouse at this time.

Debert Military History Society

Mr. Ken Kennedy - President
Mr. Mac Langille - Veteran
Mr. Donald Davidson - Retired Businessman
Mrs. Wendy Robichaud - Education Director
Mrs. Sheila Crowe - Vice President

Background

To try to bring back a history of military involvement in the community of Debert dating back to World War II. To bring back some form of remembrance and of maintaining a museum /artifacts for the community.

At one time there use to be a museum on the premises when the area was called Canadian Forces Station Debert. It was funded by DND, DVA and various other government agencies, however funding was withdrawn in 1995. The Debert Military History Society came about as a not-for-profit charitable organization under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia in April of 1998. When the military decided to pull out of Debert they gave $2.2 million to the Colchester Park Development Society (a non-profit organization) to pick up the slack after DND moved out. The CPDS were mandated to bring some new industry to the base; although it was not until the year 2000 that they finally got complete control of the undergound nuclear facility.

When the DND museum disbanded a lot of items/artifacts were shipped out to Greenwood, Gagetown, Kingston, Ontario and Shearwater. The main objective of the DMHS is to get those items/artifacts back to Debert.

Funding

The Debert Military History Society have, through various fund raising efforts and underground bunker tours and donations, been able to get quite a few artifacts back but not all. It is also rumoured that the underground bunker may be leased or sold in 2001 which will inhibit fundraising efforts in that regard.

The Debert Military History Society has also received help from the Colchester Regional Development Agency which has put together a business plan for the project and Members of Parliament are speaking with Heritage Canada on behalf of the Society to obtain some funding.

The estimated cost is $125,000 for renovation of the building itself.

Business Plan

Fifteen years ago, the Trans-Canada Highway going by Debert would yield approximately 4,400 cars per day. Today there are over 66,000 per day. Economically speaking establishing a museum in Debert would not only create a wealth and resource of the history of Canada, but would create employment as well. The museum has a capacity to build not only within the community of Debert but within the County of Colchester and the province.

The business plan offers several options. One is the small business development entrepreneurship. There is a possibility of a number of businesses in that area whether it be tours, development of business, restaurants, so on and so forth that could be developed because of the museum. Tourism will be a huge market success especially with other developments that are coming and with the amount of traffic passing by each day.

VolNet is an Industry Canada program where not-for-profit organizations are given computers at very low prices. CORDA believes that they could be a VolNet site. They could do digital collections on Internet sites be it pictorial, history and sound histories of different aspects of the war as well as depicting different regiments. They are approaching HRDC for funding for a coordinator who would help with marketing and assistance.

Through HRDC a Mi'kmaq Paleo-Indian site is being developed which is attracting universities around the world who want to come here and explore the site. CORDA is within a quarter mile of this site. This proximity would complement each others development.

Second is combined marketing development with the Debert Park Development Society. This could enable combined marketing. Debert Park Development Society could include CORDA in their marketing, special events, hospitality ventures, etc.

Third is donations from national and international veterans and Royal Canadian Legions across Canada.

Matters of Discussion

There were a number of matters discussed throughout the meeting. Outlined below are the topics that were dealt with during the meeting.

The Debert Bunker.
Constructed in 1960's, it was built to house 350 people for 30 days. It wasn't built to withstand a direct hit, but was there to filter any fallouts and the like. The bunker was designed to house the Lieutenant-Governor, the Premier and his key aids and hundreds of military personnel.

When the military moved out in 1995 the bunker bacame vacant and CPDS (Colchester Park Development Society) received clearance and became full owners of the bunker. However it was recently learned (at this time) that the resource might no longer be available.

Cost of operations.
To run the present facility during the summer months and heat in the winter with no open hours can be done for approximatlely $8,800. Heating costs are about $5,000 and the remainder goes to administration costs, i.e. photocopying, wages, phone, so on and so forth.

Witness Suggestion

The presenters sought moral support from the Standing Committee and to support in any way they can the need for an active museum which will not only serve to hold and display artifacts, memoirs and memorabilia but also to create a tourist stopoff thereby creating some economic impact.

A copy of this transcript may be obtained from the Legislative Committees Office or online at the following address: www.gov.ns.ca/legi/hansard/comm/va/va010301.htm

Korea War Veterans Association

Mr. Phillip Burke - 1st Vice President

Background

Presently there are 400 - 500 Korea War Veterans in Nova Scotia. In total there are 175 Veterans in Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Burke expressed one main concern of the association and that was concern about their veterans in Camp Hill and their well-being. Camp Hill hospital, the veteran's hospital, should only be there for veterans. What has happened in the past is that other people, classified as veterans, were using the beds. If a person worked elsewhere for an extended period of time they were classified as a veteran and placed in Camp Hill hospital. Eventually these people were removed from Camp Hill and beds were then opened up to war veterans.

Following this, the Korea War Veterans Association have tried to establish putting the word "war" with veteran to say that a person is a war veteran and is entitled to go to Camp Hill.

Matters of Discussion

There were a number of matters discussed throughout the meeting. Outlined below are the topics that were dealt with during the meeting.

Recognition.
In terms of recognition for Korea War Veterans in Canada it was stated that they are finally getting recognized now. At one time they were being addressed as Korean Veterans and not Korean War Veterans. The association fought for almost 50 years to get any recognition. The Korea War was never classed as a war until the last three or four years. There were 26,791 Canadians sent to the Korean War and of that total 516 were killed not counting the wounded.

Improvements.
Improvements on how veterans are being treated could begin by having a Veterans Affairs Minister keep the portfolio long enough to learn the position; to come to all the different areas in Canada and have meetings with veterans and understand their needs and concerns.

To employ older persons (veterans) in the Veterans Affairs office in Halifax so other veterans can have somebody on their level who understands their problems.

To streamline the documentation process to obtain proper medical records for pensions, etc.

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
this 1st day of November, 2001

Mr. William Langille, MLA (Chairman)
(Colchester - North)

I concur

Mr. Cecil O'Donnell, MLA
(Shelburne)

I concur

Mr. David Wilson, MLA
(Glace Bay)

I concur

Dr. Mark Parent, MLA
(Kings North)

I concur

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)

I concur

Mr. John Chataway, MLA
(Chester - St. Margaret's)

I concur

Mr. John Holm, MLA
(Sackville Cobequid)

I concur

Mr. Frank Chipman, MLA
(Annapolis)

I concur

Mr. Jerry Pye, MLA
(Dartmouth North)

Committee Membership

During the 2nd Session of the 58th General Assembly of the House of Assembly, the make-up of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was comprised of the following members:

Mr. William Langille, MLA (Chairman)
(Colchester North)

Mrs. Mary Ann McGrath, MLA
(Halifax Bedford Basin)

Mr. John Chataway, MLA
(Chester St. Margaret's)

Mr. Cecil O'Donnell, MLA
(Shelburne)

Dr. Mark Parent, MLA
(Kings North)

Mr.David Wilson, MLA
(Cape Breton East)

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)

Mr. John Holm, MLA
(Sackville Cobequid)

Mr. Jerry Pye, MLA
(Dartmouth North)

During the 2nd Session of the 58th General Assembly the Committee Membership had been amended to replace Mrs. Mary McGrath, MLA (Halifax Bedford Basin) with Mr. Frank Chipman, MLA (Annapolis).

Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee has been meeting on Thursdays since its establishment, and all meetings are open to the public. During the 2nd Session of the 58th General Assembly the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has met on the following dates.

November 23, 2000
January 11, 2001
February 8, 2001
March 1, 2001
April 5, 2001

Notices

Notices of committee meetings are sent to all members of the Committee, support staff of the caucus and legislative offices, the House of Assembly Press Gallery, the government wire services and is published on the internet.

Transcripts

Transcripts of the Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Committees Office, 3rd Floor, Dennis Building, 1740 Granville Street, P.O. Box 2630 Station M, Halifax, NS B3J 3N5 or from the provincial government web-site: www.gov.ns.ca/legi/hansard/comm

Annual/Interim Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to the Committee Members for consideration. Once the report is finalized it is then distributed to the following:

The Speaker/Clerk of the House of Assembly; all members of the Legislative Assembly; all presenters who made presentations before the Committee; all Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Libraries across Canada, including the Territories and the media. The report is also available to all persons interested in obtaining a copy from the Legislative Committees Office or through the provincial government web-site.

Acknowledgments

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs wishes to extend its gratitude to the following for their time and cooperation:

The Royal Canadian Legion; the Walter Callow Wheelchair Busses; the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association; the Debert Military History Society; and the Korea War Veterans Association. Special thanks to Mr.Robert Kinsman, Manager of Hansard; Hansard Staff; to Mr. Don Ledger, Co-ordinator of Legislative Television and Broadcasting; Legislative Television Staff; to Mr. Michael Laffin, Co-ordinator, House of Assembly Operations; House of Assembly Staff; and to Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and Librarian Staff.